

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 AF-10 AID-20 COME-00

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SIL-01 IGA-02 ACDA-19 MC-02 DRC-01 INT-08 STR-08 EA-11

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R 301053Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0382

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 3709

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE WEEKLY REQUESTS INTERVIEW.

SUMMARY: LISBON JOURANLIST REPRESENTING SEMPRE FIXE NEWSPAPER REQUESTS OFFICIAL EMBASSY RESPONSE TO SENSITIVE FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS USING INTERVIEW AS FORUM FOR GETTING POSITIVE VIEWS ACROSS. END SUMMARY.

1. LISBON JOURANLIST FOR SEMPRE FIXE (SEMPRE FIXE UP-AND-COMING, AGRESSIVE SATURDAY WEEKLY WHICH MAY IN TIME GIVE EXPRESSO COMPETITION) REQUESTED INTERVIEW WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICER. LIST OF QUESTIONS INCLUDES SEVERAL ON AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. FOR TIME BEING EMBOFF AGREED TO ANSWER ONLY THOSE ON CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY PROCLAIMED BY PRESIDENT FORD, AMERICAN PUBLIC REACTIONS TO PRESIDENTIAL RESIGNATION, ETC., USING GUIDANCE FURNISHED USIA 17101 CIRCULAR AND USIA 17823 CIRCULAR.

COMMENT: U.S. POLICIES ARE FREQUENTLY DISTORTED IN
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PORTUGUESE PRESS IF THEY ARE REPORTED AT ALL, AND

OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT U.S. VIEWS DOES NOT COME ALONG EVERY DAY. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO USE INTERVIEW AS FORUM TO MAKE POSITIVE CASE ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. QUESTIONS REPRESENT THE KIND OF THINKING PREVALENT AMONG MANY REPORTERS IN PORTUGUESE JOURNALISM.

FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS AND PROPOSED RESPONSES:

1. QUESTION: WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT SPINOLA?

ANSWER PROPOSED: PRESIDENT FORD UPON ASSUMING THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT WISHED TO ASSURE PORTUGAL'S HEAD OF STATE OF THE CONTINUITY AND BIPARTISANSHIP OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, OF HIS INTEREST IN RECENT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, AND HIS VIEW THAT THE BONDS OUR TWO NATIONS SHARE SHOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

2. QUESTION: PORTUGAL IS IN THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZING ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES. IN THIS LIGHT WHAT IS U.S. POLICY GOING TO BE AND WHAT WILL U.S. ROLE BE IN THE U.N.?

ANSWER PROPOSED: THE UNITED STATES RECENTLY VOTED FOR THE ADMISSION OF GUINEA-BISSAU TO THE UNITED NATIONS. IN ADDITION, THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SPOKESMAN ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT FORD ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 12 THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES WELCOME THE PORTUGAL-GUINEA-BISSAU AGREEMENT OF AUGUST 9 AND LOOK FORWARD TO A PRODUCTIVE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH GUINEA-BISSAU. AS TO DECLONIZATION, IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS LONG SUPPORTED, IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND OUT, POLICIES WHICH WOULD LEAD TO SELF-DETERMINATION BY ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES.

3. QUESTION: IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES ARE ABOUT TO DETERMINE THEMSELVES WHICH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES THEY WILL FOLLOW, HOW WILL THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT DEFEND ITS INTERESTS THERE?

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ANSWER PROPOSED: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS MAINTAINED A POLICY OF NEUTRALITY IN THE CONFLICTS IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA AND HAS SPOKEN OUT IN FAVOR OF PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES SO THAT SELF-DETERMINATION MIGHT COME TO ALL PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORIES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH NEW GOVERNMENTS WHEN THEY ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE AND MEET THE CRITERIA WE HAVE ESTABLISHED

FOR RECOGNITION.

4. QUESTION: DOES THE U.S. JUDGE THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN BASES IN THE AZORES AND CAPE VERDE ISLANDS IN VIEW OF THE POLICIES NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN BY PORTUGAL?

ANSWER PROPOSED: REGARDING AZORES BOTH PORTUGUESE AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 8 THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF THE AZORES BASE AGREEMENT WILL BEGIN IN WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 3. AS FOR CAPE VERDE THERE IS NO U.S. BASE IN THAT ARCHIPELAGO.

5. QUESTION: WHAT SYSTEM OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WILL BE GIVEN BY THE U.S. TO PORTUGAL NOW THAT FURNISHING OF ARMAMENTS IS NO LONGER NECESSARY?

ANSWER PROPOSED: BY CHECKING THE RECORD YOU WILL SEE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT BEEN A SIGNIFICANT SUPPLIER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PORTUGAL. AS A MATTER OF FACT, SINCE 1961 THERE HAS BEEN AN EMBARGO IN FORCE WHICH HAS EFFECTIVELY PREVENTED SHIPMENT TO PORTUGAL OF U.S. MILITARY ITEMS TO BE USED IN AFRICA.

PORTUGAL HAS RECEIVED MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES ONLY IN AREAS RELATED TO ITS ROLE IN N.A.T.O. THIS HAS AVERAGED DOLS 800,000 PER YEAR AND HAS CONSISTED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF TRAINING.

PRESIDENT NIXON ANNOUNCED AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SPINOLA IN THE AZORES THAT HE HAD ASSURED PRESIDENT SPINOLA THAT PORTUGAL, IN MEETING THE CHALLENGES IT FACES, WILL HAVE NOT ONLY THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE USG, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT THE EXTENT THE U.S. IS ABLE, U.S. SUPPORT. HE NOTED THAT AN INDEPENDENT, FREE, PROSPEROUS PORTUGAL IS VITAL NOT ONLY TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, BUT VITAL ALSO TO THE INTEREST OF THE U.S. AS WELL AS TO THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL.

6. QUESTION: FINALLY, HOW DOES THE U.S. VIEW THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE TWO PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES ENCIRCLED AS THEY ARE BY THE TWO WHITE GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA WITH WHOM AMERICA MAINTAINS COMMERCIAL RELATIONS?

ANSWER PROPOSED: ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE, BOTH WITH EXTENSIVE COASTLINES AND ACCESS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, CAN HARDLY BE TERMED "ENCRICLED" BY WHITE GOVERNMENTS.

THE LAD-LOCKED "BLACK" STATES OF LESOTHO, BOTSWANA,
AND SWAZILAND, ARE COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY ENCIRCLED BY
WHITE STATES, YET THEY MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE.
WE THEREFORE SEE NO REASON WHY ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE,
ONCE INDEPENDENT, SHOULD HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY IN THIS
RESPECT.

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R 301053Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0383

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AS TO U.S. COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, U.S. BUSINESS
RELATIONS WITH JUST THREE OF THE CONTINENT'S INDEPENDENT
"BLACK" STATES, NIGERIA, ZAIRE AND KENYA, SURPASS
U.S. COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. SINCE
1969 THE U.S. HAS HAD NO DIPLOMATIC OR COMMERCIAL
RELATIONS WITH RHODESIA BEYOND THE PURCHASE OF RHODESIAN
CHROME, REQUIRED BY THE BYRD AMENDMENT PASSED
BY THE U.S. CONGRESS IN 1971. LEGISLATION TO REPEAL
THAT AMENDMENT IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE US.
CONGRESS, WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT FORD.

7. QUESTION: WITH THE OPENING UP OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE EASTERN COUNTRIES AND PORTUGAL, WHAT MEASURES WILL THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY TAKE-ENLARGING THE STAFF, TYPES OF

CONTACTS?

ANSWER PROPOSED: THE AMERICAN EMBASSY DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

8. QUESTION: IN THE PARTICULAR CASE OF THE AMERICAN
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MULTINATIONALS WHICH ARE LEAVING PORTUGAL AND TRANSFERRING THEIR MACHINERY TO NORTH-AFRICAN COUNTRIES-SUCH AS APPLIED MAGNETICS- WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE EMBASSY AS A DEFENDER OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN THAT THE COMPANIES ARE ACCUSED OF EXPLOITATION AND INTERNAL ILLEGALITIES?

ANSWER PROPOSED: THE QUESTION IMPLIES A LARGE-SCALE EXODUS OF AMERICAN COMPANIES FROM PORTUGAL. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THE NUMBER OF FIRMS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING SUCH ACTION IS SMALL AND THOSE THAT HAVE ACTUALLY DONE SO ARE LIMITED TO ONE OR TWO CASES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT APPLIED MAGNETICS HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY ACCUSED OF EXPLOITATION AND INTERNAL ILLEGALITIES AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF DISCUSSING WITH THE GOVERNMENT THE MANNER OF TERMINATING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN PORTUGAL. THESE CONVERSATIONS TO DATE HAVE BEEN AMICABLE AND POSITIVE. IN CASES INVOLVING AMERICAN COMPANIES THE EMBASSY TRIES TO ENSURE THAT THEY RECEIVE FULL PROTECTION OF THE LOCAL LAWS AND THAT THEY ARE NOT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST UNFAIRLY. THE EMBASSY MAKES AVAILABLE TO FIRMS ITS KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND CAN OFTEN ASSIST BY INDICATING WHICH PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SHOULD BE CONTACTED WHEN PROBLEM OCCURS.

9. QUESTION: WITH RESPECT TO AFRICA IS THERE ANYTHING TO THE POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES TO THE SOUTH OF AFRICA E.G., THOSE STATIONED IN VIETNAM, SENSING ANY TYPE OF CONFLICT IN THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD AND SERVING TO LOCK A RUSSIAN OR CHINESE INVASION OF THE CONTINENT?

ANSWER PROPOSED: THE LAST AMERICAN COMBAT FORCES WERE WITHDRAWN FROM VIETNAM IN 1972. SENDING AMERICAN FORCES TO SOUTHERN AFRICA HAS NEVER BEEN CONTEMPLATED.

ACTION: REQUEST DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE.

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